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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/031,381	01/18/2002	Yoshifumi Takamoto	NITT.0054	2298

7590

08/11/2005

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EXAMINER

FILIPCZYK, MARCIN R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2161

DATE MAILED: 08/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/031,381

Applicant(s)

TAKAMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

Marc R. Filipczyk

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 January 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 January 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/18/02, 10/04/02.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

This Action is responsive to application filed on January 18, 2002 wherein claims 1-11 are presented for examination.

To expedite the process of examination Examiner requests that all future correspondences in regard to overcoming prior art rejections or other issues (e.g. amendments, 35 U.S.C. 112, objections and the like) set forth by the Examiner that Applicants provide and link to the most specific page and line numbers of the disclosure where the best support is found (see 35 U.S.C. 132).

Priority

Application 10/031,381 is a national stage entry of PCT/JP99/05357 International Filing Date: 09/29/1999.

Information Disclosure Statement(IDS)

The IDS received on 1/18/2002 and 10/04/2002 are in compliance and have been noted.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Probert, Jr. et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,549,918), herein “Probert”.

Regarding claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 10 and 11, Probert discloses a storage system (fig. 2, 222 and 226) that is connected to a first host computer, which uses a first operating system for managing stored location information of a file using a first format, and that is connected to a second host computer, which uses a second operating system for managing stored location information of the file using a second format different from said first format, said storage system comprising: (fig. 2, abstract and col. 9, lines 40-45 and col. 14, lines 33-36)

a plurality of disk drives for storing data; (fig. 2, 236) and

a disk controller comprising an interface for connecting to said first host computer and said second host computer, and an interface for connecting to said disk drives; (fig. 2, items 228 and 238, and related text)

wherein,

said disk controller comprises: (fig. 2, items 228 and 238, and related text)

a means for holding stored location information of a file, which is stored in any one of said plurality of disk drives, in said second format, said stored location information of the file of the second format being corresponding to the stored location information of the file in said first format; (fig. 2, items 234 and 236, and related text)

a means for reading said file on the basis of the stored location information in said second format when access request to access said file is issued from said second host computer; (fig. 2, items 208, 222 and 226, and related text) and,

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converting the stored location information of said file in said first format into stored location information in said second format (fig. 2, 230, 234 and 236) based on a fixed length block (col. 8, lines 7-10)

(Note: every block of data may comprise different fixed length depending on the type of data stored such as text graph and other type)

Probert further discloses reading said file on the basis of the stored location information in said second format (fig. 2, items 208 and 236).

Regarding claim 3, Probert discloses said second format which has been converted is stored in a cache area in said storage system (col. 13, lines 3-12 and 45-48).

Regarding claims 6-8, Probert discloses said stored location information in said first format of said file is held in any one of said plurality of disk drives or both, first and second disk drives and disk drive may be accessed (fig. 2, items 208, 234, 236 and related text).

Regarding claim 9, Probert discloses exclusive control of an access request (col. 9, lines 41-49).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marc R. Filipczyk whose telephone number is (571) 272-4019. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8:30am-5pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on (571) 272-4023. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MF
August 3, 2005


FRANTZ COBY
PRIMARY EXAMINER